## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

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R 311410Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8886 INFO USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 4940

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: UN, MLAT, KU

SUBJECT: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 205678

- 1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS, DCM AUG. 31 MET WITH CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S UN AFFAIRS OFFICE (AND CURRENTLY ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT MFA) FAISAL AL-RIFA'I. DCM PRESENTED NINE-PAGE SINGLE-SPACED AIDE MEMOIRE CONSISTING ONLY OF TALKING POINTS EXTRACTED FROM REFTEL AND COVERING ALL ISSUES EXCEPT THOSE LABELLED "FYI" OR "IF ASKED."
- 2. DCM OPENED DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT WORK OF 32ND UNGA WOULD BE SERIOUS AND WORKMANLIKE WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS SEEKING TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS DEBATE IN FAVOR OF PRACTICAL RESOLUTIONS AND GENUINE PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES. HE DREW ON PARA. 5 REFTEL TO OUTLINE GENERAL USG OBJECTIVES FOR THE SESSION, AND THEN DREW AL-RIFAT'S ATTENTION SUCCESSIVELY TO SALIENT PROTIONS OF EACH ISSUE LISTED IN TALKING POINTS OF AIDE MEMOIRE. HE PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON POINTS CONCERNING MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, DISARMAMENT, PUERTO RICO, GUAM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TOUCHED ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

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LIGHTLY ON NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, SUBJECT WITH WHICH AL-RIFA'I IS GENERALLY LESS INVOLVED.

3. AL-RIFA'I WAS ATTENTIVE THROUGHOUT PRESENTATION BUT MADE NO COMMENT ON ANY POINT. ASKED WHAT PARTICULAR KUWAITI OBJECTIVES FOR 32ND UNGA MIGHT BE, HE REITERATED USUAL KUWAITI STATEMENTS THAT GOK IS AS ALWAYS CONCERNED

FOR THE HEALTH AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN SYSTEM AND FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THIRD WORLD INTERESTS THROUGH THE WORK OF THAT SYSTEM. DCM TOOK OCCASION TO MAKE POINT THAT EFFECTIVENESS OF UN AND INTERESTS OF THIRD WORLD ARE BOTH BEST SERVED WHEN THE UNGA AVOIDS INFLAMMATORY AND CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTIONS AND CONCENTRATES ON NEGOTIATION OF PRACTICAL TEXTS. HE ALSO RE-EMPHASIZED SOLEMNITY OF USG DESIRE TO WORK WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

4. COMMENT: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS AT PRESENT VERY SHORT-STAFFED OWING TO RAMADHAN, SUMMER VACATIONS. AND PREPARATIONS NOT ONLY FOR UNGA BUT UPCOMING ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN CAIRO. AL-RIFA'I HIMSELF WILL DEPART IN NEXT FEW DAYS. ALTHOUGH TALKING POINTS PROVIDED REFTEL WERE MOSTLY EXCELLENT. TAKEN ALTOGETHER THEY MAKE A SOMEWHAT INDIGESTIBLE PACKAGE. WE WILL BE SEEKING EARLY OPPORTUNITIES TO REINFORCE THOSE POINTS NOT EMPHASIZED IN DCM'S DISCUSSION, BUT WE CANNOT BE SANGUINE CONCERNING OUR EFFECTIVENESS WITH OVERBURDENED MFA OFFICERS IN COMING WEEKS. AL-RIFA'I CAN BE EXPECTED TO STUDY AND CIRCULATE AIDE MEMOIRE. WE WOULD POINT OUT HOWEVER THAT GOK IS IN PROCESS OF BEEFING UP ITS UN DELEGATION CONSIDERABLY IN ANTICIPATION OF TAKING SEAT ON SECURITY COUNCIL. THERE SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE MORE UTILITY FOR USUN CONSULTATIONS WITH KUWAITI DELEGATION THAN IN PAST YEARS. CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT04940
Document Source: Core

**Document Unique ID: 00** 

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** 

Film Number: D770315-0912

Format: TEL From: KUWAIT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977084/aaaaadag.tel

Line Count: 95 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 9bab8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 STĂTE 205678

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1535996 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS

TAGS: PORG, KU, UN, UNGA

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9bab8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009